

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 741

By Holt

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Jerry P. Simmons on the occasion of his retirement.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to recognize, particularly on the occasion of their retirement, those outstanding teachers who have devoted their careers to providing the highest quality education for Tennessee's students; and

WHEREAS, Jerry P. Simmons is one such estimable educator who, having distinguished himself as an exemplary teacher for the past fifty years, will soon enter into a well deserved retirement; and

WHEREAS, an assiduous scholar, Mr. Jerry Simmons earned both his bachelor's and his master's degrees from Michigan State University; and

WHEREAS, he began his illustrious career in education teaching in Michigan for two years before wisely returning to the great state of Tennessee to lend his time and tremendous talents to the Henry County School System; and

WHEREAS, this distinguished professional was working diligently with the Weakley County School System in 1970 when he was named Principal of Dresden Elementary School; and

WHEREAS, he also served with the utmost ability as a Chemistry and Science teacher at Dresden High School, instructing and positively influencing students from all walks of life; and

WHEREAS, having proven himself to be a thoughtful and capable leader, Mr. Simmons was elected the Superintendent of the Weakley County School System in 1987 and rendered sterling service in that position for two terms, ushering in a host of constructive changes and strengthening the educational system as a whole; and

WHEREAS, an innovative and inspiring leader in education, Mr. Simmons next focused his singular skills and expertise for nine years as the Principal of Gleason School; and

WHEREAS, for the past seventeen years, he has served with acumen and alacrity as a teacher with the Weakley County Adult Education Program, working assiduously through day and night classes to help adult learners obtain their General Education Diplomas (GED) and bringing his calm demeanor and wealth of knowledge to the Weakley County Jail in order to help inmates make a better life for themselves and their families; and

WHEREAS, a dedicated civic leader, Jerry Simmons has distinguished himself as a public-spirited citizen of the highest order through his work with a host of noteworthy organizations, including serving as the Chairman of the Como-Ore Springs Fire Department Board of Directors; President of the local Lodge of Woodmen of the World; President of the Weakley County Retired Teachers Association; and member of the Rotary Club, Weakley County Commission, Bank of Gleason Board of Directors, and Board of Trustees of Mid-Continent University; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to honors and accolades, Mr. Simmons is the recipient of the Jaycee Club Distinguished Service Award and the Woodmen of the World Fraternal Spirit Award and was named High School Principal of the Year for West Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, his many professional accomplishments aside, Mr. Jerry Simmons is most grateful for the love and support of his wife, Marjorie; their two sons, Mark and Michael; and their four beautiful grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, for half a century, Mr. Simmons has demonstrated the utmost professionalism, ability, and integrity, winning the unbridled respect and admiration of his community at large; and

WHEREAS, Jerry Simmons truly epitomizes the dedicated teacher who is wholly committed to the highest ideals of public service and quality education for all, and he should be specially recognized for his manifold achievements on the occasion of his retirement; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE

CONCURRING, that we honor Jerry P. Simmons, commending his exceptional service to the students of Tennessee, saluting his professional expertise and personal excellence, and extending to him our heartfelt wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement and every continued success in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.